Islands in the Stream Expedition 2001 Field Season

Dive Summary

Madison Swanson 6/17/2001

Florida Middle Grounds/West Florida Shelf, Islands in the Stream

Overview of Dive A20-127 at Madison Swanson

GP Schmahl piloted this dive at the site known as Madison Swanson on 6/17/2001 starting at 13:20:00. Total dive time was 4:09:00 and the maximum depth reached was 265 feet. (All times CST)

Dive Objectives. Objectives accomplished during the dive include:

Exploration/Recon

Benthic Assessment

Geologic Assessment

Transect(s)

Filming

Data Collected. Types of data collected during the dive include:

Digital Video Tapes	1	Tape accidentally re-set to "0" on transect
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Tracking		

Living Marine Resources Abundance

few 2-10; many 11 - 100; abundant >100

Pelagic Fish	Many	Oth
	•	
Bottom Fish	Abundant	
Crustacean	Few	
Mollusk	None	
Echinoderm	Few	
		- •

ther Benthic Many

Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

many young scamp around high relief features many short bigeye on low relief bottom.

General Comments

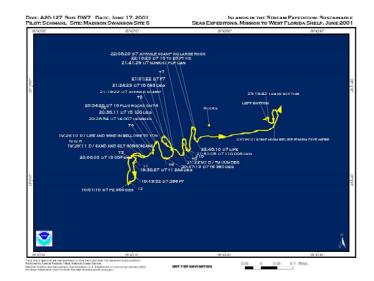
Small white branching coral(?) common. Many basket stars curled up on gorgonians. Short bigeye appear to be excavating areas around low relief outcrops for cover.



Prepared by : National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 6/20/2001

Dive Track Description

Madison Swanson site #6 and vicinity-Dive began at about 248 feet-substrate was moderately coarse sand mixed with finer clays as a thin veneer over hard bottom. Low relief outcrops(rocks) about 6-8 ft. high scattered throughout. Gorgonians, spiral whips and a few sponges also common. Short bigeyes very prominent associated with excavations around low relief outcrops. School of amberjacks followed through much of dive. Several transects completed, then encountered high relief (6-8') outcrops/drowned reef features. Many small scamp grouper associated with these features. Zigzaged to the northeast over sand/silt veneer area, encountering several other high relief features. After transects completed, spent time videoing fish and invertebrates associated with high relief features. Relief of features observed during the dive ranged from to 3 meters.



Observed Human Activities

Recreational Fishing
Commercial Fishing

Observed	Human	Impacte
Observed	Hullian	IIIIpacts

Discarded Gear	Much discarded
Garbage	Videotaped soda can.

Overall Dive Site Ratings

1 = low; 10 = high

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Uniqueness	
Health	
Disturbance	
Biodiversity	

Observed Fish Abundance few 2-10: many 11 - 100: abundant > 100

10W 2-10, many 11 - 100, abandant - 100		
Bank Butterfly	Few	
Blue Angelfish	Many	
Creolefish	Few	
Gag	Few	
Greater Amberjack	Many	
Other Jack	Many	
Red Snapper	Few	
Roughtongue Bass	Many	
Scamp	Many	
Short Bigeye	Many	
Tattler	Many	
Yellowtail Reeffish	Few	